

MERCURY TOPS 110 FOR RECORD, STEELWORKER DIES, OTHERS HIT

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Special Census Begins Sept. 12

Officials Seek 70 Enumerators

A special census will begin in Torrance next Monday, Sept. 12, it was announced here Friday by City Manager George Stevens.

The city manager said he was notified that Elijah B. Lewis, special census supervisor for this area, had been assigned to do the city's special population count and would be here Monday.

At the same time, the city manager put out a call for enumerators to assist Lewis with the huge task of counting every man, woman, and child in Torrance.

Help Sought

About 70 enumerators will be needed for the task and applications will be taken at Room 6 in the City Hall beginning tomorrow morning. Persons who can qualify will be paid 6 cents for each name correctly recorded. To be eligible for the job, the applicant must be a citizen of the United States, at least 20 years old, and physically

capable of spending several hours each day walking or at least on his feet.

Persons accepted also will be expected to devote full time to the job every day for at least three weeks, Stevens said.

65,000 Expected
The special census, the third since the 1950 Federal census, is expected to show the city's population reached at least 65,000. The present official figure is slightly above 44,000.

The added population will mean about \$100,000 to the city during the current fiscal year and will bring in more in succeeding years, Stevens says.

The boost in population will bring the city more revenue from state funds which are allocated on a population basis. Such funds include gas tax monies, the city manager said.

Persons planning to be away from home during the three week period beginning Sept. 12, may make arrangements to be included in the census by contacting the city manager's office at FA 8-5310.

Pair Injured In Two Traffic Accidents Here

Two persons received injuries Thursday in separate traffic accidents in Torrance, according to reports by city police.

Bonnie Jean Spanke, 24, was released following emergency treatment at Harbor General Hospital after cars driven by her husband, Theodore J. Spanke, 24, 16246 Covell, Van Nuys, and James H. Vos, 28, 1721 Camino de la Costa, collided at Esplanade and Paseo de la Playa.

Mrs. Spanke reportedly suffered leg abrasions in the two car mishap. Spanke was cited for failure to yield the right of way.

Leonard E. Riha, 24, 716 8th St., Hermosa, received a compound fracture of the leg after his motorcycle was hit by a car driven by Albert N. Posner, 41, 1728 Fern Ave. His condition was termed fair Friday afternoon by authorities at Harbor General Hospital.

Riha was driving his cycle on Pacific Coast Highway when the two vehicles collided.

Police cited Posner for failure to yield.

Routine Check Reveals Want On Local Man

A routine record check Friday by Torrance Policewoman Regina Ryan uncovered an ex-convict, who was being sought by Culver City police.

Irwin J. Arnold, 52, 18815 Hawthorne Ave., who has served prison terms in Louisiana and Alabama, was taken into custody Saturday at Torrance Police Station and held for Culver City authorities. He is accused of grand theft auto in that city.

Arnold first aroused suspicion when he applied for purchase of a .38 calibre automatic pistol at a local store. When the TPD was notified, Policewoman Ryan decided to make the routine file check on Arnold.

It was found he was wanted in Culver City after fingerprints were checked by local authorities.



THE WATER'S FINE—Scenes like this were common on Southland beaches during the past four days. Here is a view of Torrance Beach during the 100-degree plus heat

last Friday afternoon. Many spent the night at the beach, others roughed it in their back yards for a couple of nights during the worst of the heat wave.

All LA Schools, Including Those In This Area, Will Open Sept. 12

An advance force of approximately 2000 administrators, principals, and clerical personnel report today to 500 Los Angeles City Schools to prepare for the annual avalanche of children slated to arrive two weeks later at the opening of the 1955-56 school year.

More than 500,000 pupils—a new high for the city schools—are expected to descend upon Los Angeles' 500 educational plants, from elementary level through junior colleges, on Monday, Sept. 12.

And they'll be greeted by approximately 20,000 teachers—also a new record—who are scheduled to end their summer vacations one week earlier. The instructors will report to individual schools for briefings and preparation one week from today, Thursday, Sept. 8.

Contact Local Schools
With the starting of schools today, school officials again requested parents seeking information to contact the school in their vicinity, instead of central administrative offices.

By doing this, parents will be assured of much quicker service since the central switchboards would otherwise be jammed.

A special three day pre-registration period for children new to a Los Angeles elementary school will be held this week

from Sept. 6-8 at neighborhood schools.

Children entering kindergarten must be five on or before Dec. 2, while children who will attend first grade must be six on or before the Dec. 2nd date. Some proof of age, such as birth or baptismal certificate, must be brought by parent or guardian along with the child.

Report Card Needed

Older elementary school students who have transferred or new to the district need only show their last report card, according to Superintendent of Schools Claude L. Reeves.

Junior and senior high schools are also holding pre-registration periods for new students. But since they are scattered throughout the next two weeks, the dates must be secured from the individual schools.

A special information center Harbor area for parents with school bus transportation questions goes into operation today, for a two week period at Wilmington Junior High School, TE 4-5276.

Local Educators At Conference

Improved understanding between the schools and the public was the objective of a three-day conference at Asilomar which ended Wednesday. Representing local schools among the 235 delegates at the convention were Lyle Tussing, of Torrance, president of the El Camino College Faculty Club; and Mrs. Mildred Hanzer, president of the Torrance Education Assn.

Central topic of the conference was the problem of providing creative leadership in local teacher clubs. Among the subjects discussed were how to plan the year's program, techniques of presenting school problems to the community, and the importance of local associations to educational progress.

Featured speakers at the seminar were Lyle W. Ashby of Washington, D. C., executive secretary of the National Education Assn., and Arthur F. Corey, executive secretary of the California Teachers Assn.

Clevenger Serving in Air Force in Germany

A 2e Joe H. Clevenger, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Hamrick, of 1020 Amapola Ave., is now serving with the 496th Fighter Interceptor Squadron at Landstuhl Air Base, Germany.



ROUGH ASSIGNMENT—Firemen were called out Friday before noon to battle flames at the Pacific Waste Co. plant at 1030 Engracia Ave. Fire started in baled waste material near a newly installed conveyor and baler. Here two firemen are checking flames atop a huge stack of baled material.

Bad Check Artist Due For Hearing

Carol Ann McGlynn, 21, of Hermosa Beach, will face preliminary hearing on bad check cashing charges tomorrow in South Bay Municipal Court.

The woman cashed two stolen payroll checks Aug. 16 in Torrance, before being taken into custody. Merchants, police and the Torrance Chamber of Commerce combined forces to track down the woman, who was apprehended less than three hours after passing her first bus check.

She has been released on her own recognizance, pending the preliminary hearing.

Root Beer Stolen

Someone broke the door of an outside ice box at Quinn's Dairy, 4018 Del Amo Blvd., Lester Quinn told sheriff's deputies last week. The value of the door was set at \$6, while the root beer was worth a dime.

Boy, 5, Hit By Vehicle

Five-year-old John Tyrell, of 3760 W. 170th St., is reported in good condition at San Pedro Community Hospital, where he was taken last week after being hit by an automobile.

Young Tyrell was injured when he ran into the side of a car driven by Loretta C. Ryan, 3721 W. 172nd St., on Ainsworth between 171st and 172nd Sts.

Mrs. Ryan said she was driving on Ainsworth when she applied the brakes as a dog ran in front of her car. She reported the boy then ran into the side of her vehicle.

The victim was taken to the San Pedro hospital by Wright's Ambulance, following emergency treatment in Torrance. The driver was not held.

Banana Eating Thief

Mrs. Herbert Wilson, 5311 Binedward Rd., reported to police Thursday that someone took a ceramic vase, complete with wrought iron stand, and a two-foot banana tree from her front porch Wednesday night.

Cooling Breeze Drops Mercury

Torrance residents began settling into a milder holiday climate over the week end as the temperatures tumbled from a Thursday high of 110.5 degrees in downtown Torrance, an all time high mark for this area. The mercury dropped to 80 degrees by 1:20 p.m., Saturday.

Left in the aftermath of the blistering heat was at least one death, several cases of heat prostration, and a smoldering industrial fire which put one fireman in the hospital.

Dead is Tony Gracia Rios, 47, of 2336 Del Amo, who left his job at Columbia Steel, Thursday noon, complaining that he didn't feel well. When he did not improve by evening, he was taken to Harbor General Hospital, where he died shortly after noon Friday.

Rosary will be recited for Mr. Rios at Stone and Myers Mortuary Chapel here tomorrow evening at 8. Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Pueblo Wednesday morning at 9. Rev. P. J. McGuinness officiating.

Mr. Rios is survived by his wife, Rebecca, and a daughter, Clara Rios at the home address, a daughter, Nellie Solis at 2227 1/2 Del Amo, and two sons, Paul and Joe Rios of the home address. Also surviving is a brother, Pete G. Rios, of 1642 W. 208th St., and a sister, Catherine Flores, of 2216 Del Amo.

Fireman Felled
Hospitalized when he was overcome by smoke while fighting a fire at the Pacific Waste Products Co. plant on Engracia Friday morning was Fireman Howard Schneider. Fellow firemen used a rescuator on Schneider before rushing him to Torrance Memorial Hospital. He was released Friday evening and reported back to duty yesterday.

Ronald J. Johnson, 20, of 2621 Martha, suffered heat prostration early Friday afternoon and was rushed to Harbor General Hospital. He was found stricken on Border Ave.

Hospital authorities said Saturday morning that he was resting comfortably.

Firemen were called to Pittsburgh Paint Co. on Crenshaw Blvd. on Thursday and Friday afternoons when the heat at the plant set off automatic fire warning devices at the station. Many Torrance area chicken and rabbit ranchers were hard hit by the heat.

Chickens Die
K. L. Christofferson, who operates a 10,000-bird ranch on Emerald Ave., reported that he was able to save all but about 500 of his hens although other poultrymen in the area did not fare as well.

One Lomita rancher lost 600 hens, another 700, and some lost nearly all of their flocks in the terrific heat. Many raisers saved their chickens by placing lawn soakers directly in the cages with the birds and kept the water playing on the chickens during the worst part of the hot day. Christofferson reported, Southland supplies of the lawn soakers was soon depleted and a special plane was dispatched to Oregon to bring more in to fight the death dealing heat.

Water Conserved
The Dominguez Water Co. asked produce growers to curtail irrigation and asked construction projects in the Dominguez service area to halt building in an effort to maintain sufficient water pressures to protect the area's large chicken ranches.

Another victim of the torrid weather was a German shepherd dog, owned by E. R. Sparago, 2278 W. 236th St. While the Sparagos were

working, their three dogs were left alone in the back yard, without water or shade, Francis Fallon, manager of the South Bay Humane society, said.

The Humane Society received a call from a neighbor and got police permission to enter the yard to care for the dogs. But the dog was dead when they arrived. They took the other

two to the society kennels and bathed them in cool water, averting their deaths.

Numerous Calls
Fallon said that the Humane Society received numerous calls during the hot spell from residents asking advice on how to cool off their animals.

With the exception of poultry and rabbits, the only animal Fallon knew of that died because of the heat was the Sparago dog.

Thursday's record temperatures, which went down in the Weather Bureau logs as 111 degrees here, was four degrees higher than the previous high mark for Torrance, set on Sept. 20, 1939. On that day the mercury rose to 107 at 11 a.m., then dropped back into the 90s when a brisk ocean breeze came in at noon.

Cools Off Saturday
The two thermometers housed in a special cabinet atop the central fire station in downtown Torrance agreed to the degree—and they both gave Saturday's maximum as 83 degrees. By 1:20 Saturday afternoon, the mercury had nose-dived to a very welcome 80 degrees.

Forecasters for today called for continued warm weather although the mercury is scheduled to hang in somewhat lower reaches of the thermometer than the record marks hit last week.

Previous Heat Record Logged Here in 1939
Torrance's previous record heat wave, which found the city sweltering for nearly a week in 100-degree temperatures, came in September, 1939, according to files of the Torrance HERALD.

The mercury reached its peak on Wednesday, Sept. 20, when it hit 107 degrees—the record temperature in Torrance until last Thursday.

On that day, the HERALD reported, the temperature rose to its record mark by 11 a.m. and had dropped back to 103 by noon. By 1 p.m., an ocean breeze had swept across the area and the mercury dropped to a comfortable 94 degrees. For several days after that, the temperatures soared over the 100-degree mark, but never approached the record again.



NEW HIGHWAY OPENED . . . Mrs. Burton W. Chace does the honors as a new segment of Potos Verdes Drive South is opened Friday morning. Left to right are Supervisor Chace, Mrs. Chace, M. L. Bauders, cooperating project engineer for the State Division of Highways, and County Road Commissioner Sam Kennedy. The new divided highway around the peninsula will alleviate the heavy traffic jams which have been bothering motorists since the opening of the Marineland.